

ABSTRACT

In the context of associations between sets of objects, such as between two categorical data sets, a system and method of performing associations and determining optimizations thereof is presented. Performing various modifications of original object sets, such as by aggregating, refining and permuting the elements of the original object sets yield modified object sets corresponding to the original object sets. Functions and metrics are performed on the object sets, such as by calculating pair association values and overall association values to evaluate the strength or adequacy of an association. A process which iteratively modifies and re-evaluates the resulting associations of modified object sets is described, optionally checking for consistency or convergence of the result, optionally onto an optimum result and optionally checking a stopping criterion for terminating the process.

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